

Madam Speaker, in February, I introduced and the House passed a resolution supporting the goals of "National Girls and Women in Sports Day." National Girls and Women in Sports Day works to celebrate female athletes' achievements, acknowledge the positive influence of sports participation in women's lives, and urge equality and access for women in sports. Today, I am here to recognize the athletic achievements of one young lady in my district. On April 21, 2009, Mackenzie Brown, a 6th grade little league pitcher from Bayonne, New Jersey, threw a perfect game. Throwing fastballs and change-ups, she struck out 18 batters – all of them were boys. Mackenzie is the first girl in the city's history to throw a perfect game. Her achievement was so impressive that she was asked to throw the ceremonial first pitch before the Mets' game against the Washington Nationals at Citi Field. Although Mackenzie has been a standout athlete having been recognized as MVP in more than one league, she also excels in the classroom. She has consistently been an honor roll student at Henry E Harris School in Bayonne.

Mackenzie's achievement exemplifies the important and beneficial role that sports can play in girls' lives. She is an inspiration to many, and I want to congratulate her. I look forward to her many future successes on and off the field.